Recruitment of Employees

†5023. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh recruitment of the employees have been made on permanent or temporary basis in railways during the year ending in March, 2000;

(b) if so, the number of employees appointed in the above categories separately; and

(c) the number of employees appointed in class I, II, III and IV separately alongwith the additional annual financial burden on Railways on account of said fresh appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FDI in pharma sector

5024. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to boost performance of pharma sector on the pattern of II sector, attracting FDI in production and R&D activities and for promoting joint ventures with USA to secure dominant role in the Global market;

(b) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken/under consideration for joint ventures in R&D and FDI in pharma sector;

(c) the details of action taken to upgrade educational institutions in pharmacy to international standards in collaboration with U.S.A.; and

(d) the time bound agenda for action for fresh policy reforms during 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) With a view to attract

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

foreign investors to invest more in the drugs and pharmaceutical industry, the Government has recently increased the limit of foreign investment through the automatic route, from 51% to 74% in the case of bulk drugs, their intermediates and formulations.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has set up the National Institute of Pharmaceutical education and Research (NIPER), the first national level institute in pharmaceutical sciences with proclaimed objectives of becoming a centre of excellence for advanced studies and research in pharmaceutical sciences. NIPER offers various postgraduate programmes *i.e.* M.S. (Pharma). M. Pharma & M. Tech. (Pharma) & Ph.D. Programmes having inter-disciplinary approach with emphasis on drug discovery & development.

Fertilizer plant in Andhra Pradesh

5025. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IFFCO has a proposal to establish a fertilizer plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if not, whether IFFCO has ever considered establishment of a plant in that State;

(c) if so, what were the circumstances of such a proposal;

(d) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is a net importer of fertilizers manufactured in other States and other countries;

(e) whether it would make economic sense to have a fertilizer plant in Andhra Pradesh to reduce transportation costs; and

(f) the steps proposed to consider a proposal to set up a fertilizer plant in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) and (f) The proposal of Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, (IFFCO), to set up a new ammonia-urea plant in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh with an annual urea capacity of 7.68 lakh metric tonnes at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 1736 crore has been approved 'in principle' by the Government, subject to investment appraisal by the Public Investment Board (PIB). Investment